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Ventura County Community Foundation to Offer its First Multi-Year Scholarships in 2005

(CAMARILLO, CA – December 28, 2004) — The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) has announced that it is offering its first multi-year renewable scholarships to graduates from Ventura County high schools. The program is made possible through a bequest from a local lawyer who had a great interest in helping young adults in the county improve their lives through education.

The James C. Basile Scholarship Fund was originally established by Basile in 1999 as a one-year award program. When Basile passed away in 2003, he left the bulk of his estate to the fund making it possible for VCCF to now extend the initial one-year awards to multi-year renewable scholarships. The fund currently has over \$6 million in assets making it possible for VCCF to award approximately \$300,000 in scholarships annually, doubling the size of the foundation's current scholarship program.

“This exciting expansion in our scholarship program is keeping with Mr. Basile’s dream of helping students fulfill their potential through higher education,” said Hugh Ralston, president of the Ventura County Community Foundation. “The parameters for applying for the scholarships are broad by design so as to engage as many worthwhile candidates as possible.”

(More)

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Graduating high school seniors, college freshman, sophomores or juniors who will or have graduated from a Ventura County high school and who will attend a public college, university, junior or community college in California will be eligible to apply. No special major or study area is required, but students must demonstrate financial need and have at least a 3.0 GPA. In keeping with Basile's wishes, preference will be given to students from schools in Simi Valley or Moorpark or to students who have had one or both parents disabled or killed while engaged in services in law enforcement or as a fire fighter, or are physically or visually impaired, or are otherwise disabled. Scholarship applications for 2005 are now available on the foundation's Web site at www.vccf.org.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of charitable funds created in 1987 by citizens who cared deeply about strengthening the community, preserving and expanding its cultural resources, and helping those in need. The foundation works to enrich and enhance the quality of life in Ventura County and to provide leadership to residents and nonprofit organizations in building an enduring source of funds and strengthening community participation to meet the changing needs and challenges of the community. For more information, visit www.vccf.org.

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